

Curriculum Guidelines

Curriculum and Standards

OCPS has approved the Frog Street Press materials for our VPK programs. Frog Street Press is designed to foster the social-emotional, intellectual, and physical development of children while nurturing natural curiosity and sense of self to build a foundation for lifetime learning. The Frog Street materials are aligned with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for 4 and 5-Year-Olds.

The standards can be found at: <http://flbt5.floridaeearlylearning.com/standards.html>

Florida adopted the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards (2017) in Fall 2017. The standards and benchmarks reflect the knowledge and skills that a child on a developmental progression should know and be able to do at the end of an age-related timeframe.

Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards are grouped around eight domains of early learning and development:

- I. Physical Development
- II. Approaches to Learning
- III. Social and Emotional Development
- IV. Language and Literacy
- V. Mathematical Thinking
- VI. Scientific Inquiry
- VII. Social Studies
- VIII. Creative Expression Through the Arts



Developmentally Appropriate Practices

Young children learn by doing. Worksheets are **not** developmentally appropriate and are **not** part of the VPK expectations. Report cards and grades are also **not** to be used in VPK.

Daily Routine

The teacher will post a daily schedule of activities in sequential, pictorial form. This will help children learn time concepts and planning and predicting skills.

Large Group (Circle Time)

Daily, the entire class will gather for group activities that encourage relationship building, turn taking, music, storytelling and other activities that address the VPK Standards in order to prepare children for success in kindergarten.

Small Group Time

Children will spend time with an adult and in a small group learning and practicing skills in early literacy, math, science, and social/emotional areas.

Learning Centers

Each classroom will have areas set up where children can go individually or in small groups to read books, build with blocks, use a dramatic play center, listen to music and books, and explore materials in reading, writing, math, art, science, and sensory centers. Children are encouraged to make choices, play together, solve problems, and practice small and large motor skills.

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Outdoor Learning

Children will be given the opportunity to experience outdoor learning each day. This is a teacher-directed time where children interact to learn how to cooperate with others, increase large motor skills, and learn the language of outdoor fun. Nature provides many ways to learn language, science, and math.

Field Trips

Real life, hands-on experiences are important to every child's learning. VPK Programs are encouraged to provide field trips for their students. Field trips can either take place in the community or a community member participates in activities at the school site. Parents will be notified in advance and required to sign a permission slip for their child to participate. While parents may donate money for field trips, they are not required to do so.

Assessment

Students are given the Florida VPK Assessment at the beginning, middle, and end of the program to measure growth. The VPK Assessment includes progress monitoring measures in the areas of Print Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Mathematics, and Oral Language/Vocabulary and is aligned with the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for 4-Year-Olds (2017). The FLDOE requires assessment data to be entered into the Bright Beginnings Online Reporting System where teachers can track student progress and can be used to guide instructional decisions. The Bright Beginnings website is: <https://www.brightbeginningsfl.org>.

Developmental Screening

The Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI) is a comprehensive developmental screening tool used to guide instruction and to identify young children who may be in need of additional services and/or assessments.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)

During the first 30 days of Kindergarten, students are given the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) which was designed to determine their readiness for kindergarten. The Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener website (FLKRS) is: http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/assessments_and_flkrs.aspx.

